



# FEMA

## The Planning Advantage Flood Mitigation

**Middlesex, MA** – Federal requirements since 2000 have called for local jurisdictions to have multi-hazard mitigation plans in place to be eligible for FEMA project grants. At the local level, developing a hazard mitigation plan can not only meet the requirement, but it can also be advantageous to the community.

In Northern Middlesex County there was an additional interest in planning. Repeated flooding situations along three rivers in the region had driven home the importance of hazard mitigation planning.

The effects of the recent flooding and the desire to engage in solid planning led towns in the area to take advantage of an opportunity provided by the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG). The NMCOG offered to facilitate regional planning.

NMCOG efforts to develop a regional multi-hazard mitigation plan and assist member communities in developing local annexes were funded through the Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM-C). Eight towns and one city agreed to participate.

NMCOG conducted a two-tiered planning process. It first held a series of joint workshops with all the communities and then conducted individual town meetings.

The first joint meeting focused on the risk and impact of natural disasters in the local geographic area. The development of a hazard risk assessment became important to the town representatives. In the next phase, the NMCOG organized individual local teams to discuss specific challenges, suggestions and opportunities. Local teams used their risk assessments to develop customized action items and strategies for specific mitigation projects within each community.

Currently NMCOG is in possession of an approved regional hazard mitigation plan and each member community has a localized plan. The immediate results are several well-planned, fundable hazard mitigation projects. Mitigation projects totaling more than a half-million dollars have been recommended to FEMA for funding in this year's grant cycle.



Middlesex County,  
Massachusetts



### Quick Facts

Sector:

**Public**

Cost:

**\$52,000.00 (Estimated)**

Primary Activity/Project:

**Mitigation Planning/Disaster Resistant Universities**

Primary Funding:

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)**